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EXTENSION OF THE THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

1. The third country programme for the Turks and Caicos Islands (1993-1996) was approved by the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993. The Government has requested an extension of the country programme for one year, from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1997.

2. The objective of the third country programme for the Turks and Caicos Islands is to provide high-level technical advice to selected public sector institutions including the Department of Education, the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Planning. Of particular significance is the support to establish the first investment bank, TCInvest.

3. The extension of the programme will enable the Government to:

(a) Consolidate and complete ongoing programmes and projects;

(b) Re-evaluate the nature of its cooperation framework with UNDP, in light of the recent change in the Turks and Caicos Islands' status from a country that was the recipient of indicative planning figure resources to one that will be the recipient of a small amount of reimbursable resources under the line for target for resource assignment from the core;

(c) Better align its upcoming country cooperation framework with its newly proposed national development strategy, particularly in light of the country's new status as a net contributor country;

(d) Carry out the preparatory work required to develop thematic areas proposed for its first country cooperation framework.

4. It is expected that the first country cooperation framework for the Turks and Caicos Islands will be submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in 1998.

5. Against this background, the Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the third country programme for the Turks and Caicos Islands for a period of one year, beginning 1 January 1997.